Legacy West food hall brews up excitement

MOVIES: New 'Star Wars' shines over time **DINING:** Vivid Mediterranean flavors at Sachet

The Dallas Morning News

Texas' Leading Newspaper $2.00 **Dallas, Texas, Friday, December 15, 2017** DALLASNEWS

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Paxton aide resigns after calling claims 'pathetic'

'Victim means nothing anymore,' he wrote in post about #MeToo movement

By LAUREN MCGAUGHY
State Capitol Reporter
lmcgaughy@dallasnews.com

ANDREW LEONIE

AUSTIN — A top lawyer in the office of Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton resigned Thursday after reports he wrote a Facebook post that called women's sexual misconduct allegations "pathetic."

The Dallas Morning News reported Thursday morning Associate Deputy Attorney General Andrew Leonie posted on Facebook this week: "Aren't you also tired of all the pathetic 'me too' victim claims? If every woman is a 'victim', so is every man. If everyone is a victim, no one is. Victim means nothing anymore."

The post went up at 2:40 a.m. on

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BLAKE FARENTHOLD is "making the right decision," House Speaker Paul Ryan says.

INSIDE

STATE SENATE committee reviews harassment policy. **3B**

U.S. HOUSE

Farenthold drops bid for re-election

Texan issues apology for unprofessional behavior in his office

By KATIE LESLIE, NICOLE COBLER and TODD J. GILLMAN
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Besieged by allegations of crude and verbally abusive behavior, U.S. Rep. Blake Farenthold of Corpus Christi announced Thursday that he would not seek re-election.

In an emotional five-minute video, the Republican apologized for unprofessional behavior in his congressional office and for fits of rage with his staff. He said that while the most serious accusations against him were false, voters deserve better than a congressman distracted for months by an effort to clear his name.

"I am announcing my decision not to run for re-election," he said.

The conservative radio

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Mostly sunny, cool

H **57**
L **37**

Metro, back page

SPORTSDAY

'It's looking like' Dirk's coming back

Despite the Dallas Mavericks' struggles this season, Dirk Nowitzki said Thursday that "it's looking like" he'll be back to play next year. **1C**

BUSINESS

Baylor Garland closing in March

Baylor Garland hospital will close in March because of declining inpatient volumes, affecting 711 employees, the hospital system said. **1D**

Obamacare deadline arrives today

The deadline to shop for a health insurance plan on the federal marketplace is today. Thirty percent more Texans have purchased plans than at this time a year ago. **1D**

Clock's ticking on holiday shipping

Deadlines for shipping packages in time for Christmas are nearing; look inside for the information you need to get the task done. **3A**

METRO & STATE

GOP feud simmers over '18 Texas races

Competing Republican factions in the Texas House — tea party-aligned critics of Speaker Joe Straus, and the retiring speaker's more traditional followers — both claim to have gotten the jump on next year's races. **1B**

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GUIDE
Dear Abby, Hax, Movies, Television, Comics and Puzzles

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TRANSPORTATION

Roadblock on LBJ

David Woo/Staff Photographer

The LBJ Freeway expansion from Central Expressway to Interstate 30 was to have included both free and tolled lanes, with the tolls paying off the debt. But the state has ruled out tolls. So: How to pay for the project?

With tolled lanes nixed, state cuts expansion from its 2018 plan

By RAY LESZCYNSKI
Staff Writer
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The Texas Transportation Commission voted unanimously Thursday to eliminate a $1.8 billion rebuild and expansion of Interstate 635 East from the state's 2018 plan.

By taking I-635 East — the No. 1 project on regional planners' list — and Austin's Interstate 35 project off the table, the state commission accomplished its task of scrubbing all tolled projects from its Unified Transportation Program.

The 10.8 miles of freeway in Dallas, Garland and Mesquite was to have included both free and managed lanes, with tolls on the managed lanes used to pay back the project's debt. But Gov. Greg Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick told commissioners last month that toll roads were no longer an option.

LBJ East project

Staff Graphic

"It's pure politics," Garland Mayor Douglas Athas told the Regional Transportation Commission during its meeting Thursday in Arlington. "A few people financed by a few people are holding up things across the state over and over and over again. And I don't know when we're going to get tired of that."

The RTC said it would send a delegation to the Texas Transportation Commission's January meeting to emphasize the need for the expansion of I-635, also known as LBJ Freeway, and to present managed lanes as a successful tool for mobility in North Texas.

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NET NEUTRALITY

FCC reverses internet rules

Dismantled regulations give companies power over online experience

FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — The Federal Communications Commission voted Thursday to dismantle rules regulating the businesses that connect consumers to the internet, granting broadband companies the power to reshape Americans' online experiences.

AJIT PAI said the internet can go further without "the heavy hand of government."

The agency scrapped the so-called net neutrality regulations, which prohibited broadband providers from blocking websites or charging for higher-quality service or certain content. The federal government will also no longer regulate high-speed internet delivery as if it were a utility such as phone service.

The action reversed the agency's 2015 decision, during the Obama administration, to have stronger oversight over

See **FCC** Page 3A

Tyler Hicks/The New York Times

One wildfire in Alberta, Canada, last year forced mass evacuations and destroyed 2,400 homes.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Calamities tied to warming

Scientists find link in extreme weather events worldwide in 2016

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Extreme weather left its mark across the planet in 2016, the hottest year in recorded history. Record heat baked Asia and the Arctic. Droughts gripped Brazil and southern Africa. The Great Barrier Reef suffered its worst bleaching event in memory, killing large swaths of coral.

Now, climate scientists are starting to tease out which of last year's calamities can, and can't, be linked to global warming.

In a new collection of papers published Wednesday in the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*, researchers around the world analyzed 27 extreme weather events from 2016 and found that human-caused climate change was a "significant driver" for 21 of them. The effort is part of the growing field of climate change attribution, which explores connections between warming and weather events that have already happened.

To judge whether global warming made a particular extreme weather event more likely to occur, scientists typically compare data from the real world, where rising greenhouse

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